

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A system for installing computer software components on a client device for enabling connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices, comprising:

a receiving module that is structured and arranged to receive a connectivity component that enables connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices;

a detection module that is structured and arranged to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using a selected hardware device; and

an installation module that is structured and arranged to install the connectivity component when the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device, wherein:

the detection module is structured and arranged to detect a new hardware device and, based on detecting the new hardware device, to determine whether a connectivity component is stored locally that is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device;

the receiving module is structured and arranged to receive an updated connectivity component from a remote server when the detection module determines that the connectivity component that is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device is not stored locally; and

the installation module is structured and arranged to install the updated connectivity component received from the remote server.

2-7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing a device driver to enable communications between computer software at the client device and the host system using the new hardware device associated with the device driver.

9. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing directly with the new hardware device to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device.

10. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the connectivity component includes computer software that interfaces with a driver for the new hardware device that is used to connect to the host system.

11. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the connectivity component includes a broadband connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using a broadband communication device.

12. (original) The system of claim 11 wherein the connectivity component includes a DSL connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using a DSL modem.

13. (original) The system of claim 11 wherein the connectivity component includes a cable connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using a cable modem.

14. (original) The system of claim 11 wherein the connectivity component includes a satellite connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using a satellite modem.

15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the installation module installs a list of programs needed to install the connectivity component.

18. (original) The system of claim 17 wherein the list of programs includes a sequential list of programs needed to install the connectivity component such that only one reboot of the client device is necessary to accomplish installation using the sequential list of programs.

19-22. (canceled).

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the receiving module, the detection module, and the installation module are structured and arranged to perform automatically without user intervention to receive, detect, and install the connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using the new hardware device.

24. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the connectivity component received includes an updated version of a connectivity component stored on the client device before the connectivity component is installed by the installation module.

25. (original) The system of claim 24 wherein the detection module is structured and arranged to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device by comparing a version of the updated connectivity component received with a version of the connectivity component stored on the client device.

26. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein:

the receiving module is structured and arranged to receive version information from a remote server associated with a connectivity component;

the detection module is structured and arranged to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device, and to determine a version of the connectivity component to install by comparing the version information received from the remote server with version information associated with the connectivity component already received by the receiving module when installation of the connectivity component is needed; and

the installation module is structured and arranged to install the connectivity component stored on the client device when the detection module determines the version information associated with the stored connectivity component is correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server.

27. (original) The system of claim 26 wherein:

the receiving module is structured and arranged to receive an updated connectivity component from the remote server when the detection module determines that the version information associated with the connectivity component stored on the client device is not correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server; and

the installation module is structured and arranged to install the updated connectivity component received from the remote server.

28. (canceled).

29. (canceled).

30. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein:

the receiving module is structured and arranged to include a host system receiving module that is structured and arranged to receive a request to send a connectivity component to a local client device; and

the installation module is structured and arranged to include a host system installation module that is structured and arranged to send the connectivity component to the local client device for installation on the local client device in response to the request.

31. (original) The system of claim 30 wherein the detection module is structured and arranged to include a host system detection module that is structured and arranged to determine a version of the connectivity component needed for installation on the local client device.

32. (previously presented) A method for installing computer software components on a client device for enabling connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices, the method comprising:

receiving a connectivity component that enables connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices;

detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using a selected hardware device; and

installing the connectivity component when connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device, wherein:

detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is necessary includes detecting a new hardware device and, based on detecting the new hardware device, determining whether a connectivity component is stored locally that is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device;

receiving the connectivity component includes receiving an updated connectivity component from a remote server when the connectivity component that is needed to enable connectivity is not stored locally; and

installing the connectivity component includes installing the updated connectivity component received from the remote server.

33-38. (canceled).

39. (previously presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing a device driver to enable communications between computer software at the client device and the host system using the new hardware device associated with the device driver.

40. (previously presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing directly with the new hardware device to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device.

41. (previously presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the connectivity component includes computer software that interfaces with a driver for the new hardware device that is used to connect to the host system.

42. (original) The method as in claim 32 wherein the connectivity component includes a broadband connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using a broadband communication device.

43. (canceled).

44. (canceled).

45. (original) The method as in claim 32 wherein installing the connectivity component includes installing a list of programs needed to install the connectivity component.

46. (original) The method as in claim 45 wherein the list of programs includes a sequential list of programs needed to install the connectivity component such that only one reboot of the client device is necessary to accomplish installation using the sequential list of programs.

47-50. (canceled).

51. (previously presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein receiving the connectivity component, detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is necessary, and installing the connectivity component includes automatically without user intervention receiving, detecting, and installing the connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using the new hardware device.

52. (original) The method as in claim 32 wherein the connectivity component received includes an updated version of a connectivity component stored on the client device before the connectivity component is installed by the installation module.

53. (original) The method as in claim 52 wherein detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is needed includes comparing a version of the updated connectivity component received with a version of the connectivity component stored on the client device.

54. (original) The method as in claim 32 wherein:
receiving the connectivity component includes receiving version information from a remote server associated with a connectivity component;
detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is needed includes detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device, and determining a version of the connectivity component to install by comparing the version information received from the remote server with version information associated with the

connectivity component already received when installation of the connectivity component is needed; and

installing the connectivity component includes installing the connectivity component stored on the client device when the version information associated with the stored connectivity component is determined to be correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server.

55. (original) The method as in claim 54 wherein:

receiving the connectivity component includes receiving an updated connectivity component from the remote server when the version information associated with the connectivity component stored on the client device is determined not to be correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server; and

installing the connectivity component includes installing the updated connectivity component received from the remote server.

56. (canceled).

57. (canceled).

58. (original) The method as in claim 32 wherein:

receiving the connectivity component includes using a host system to receive a request to send a connectivity component to a local client device; and

installing the connectivity component includes using the host system to send the connectivity component to the local client device for installation on the local client device in response to the request.

59. (original) The method as in claim 58 wherein detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is necessary includes using the host system to determine a version of the connectivity component to install on the local client device.

60. (previously presented) A computer program for installing computer software components on a client device for enabling connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices, the computer program being stored on a computer readable medium or a propagated signal and comprising:

- a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a connectivity component that enables connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices;

- a detection code segment that causes the computer to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using a selected hardware device; and

- an installation code segment that causes the computer to install the connectivity component when the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device, wherein:

- the detection code segment causes the computer to detect a new hardware device and, based on detecting the new hardware device, to determine whether a connectivity component is stored locally that is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device;

- the receiving code segment causes the computer to receive an updated connectivity component from a remote server when the detection code segment determines that the connectivity component that is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device is not stored locally; and

- the installation code segment causes the computer to install the updated connectivity component received from the remote server.

61-66. (canceled).

67. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 60 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing a device driver to enable communications between computer software at the client device and the host system using the new hardware device associated with the device driver.

68. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 60 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing directly with the new hardware device to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device.

69. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 60 wherein the connectivity component includes computer software that interfaces with a driver for the new hardware device that is used to connect to the host system.

70. (original) The computer program of claim 60 wherein the connectivity component includes a broadband connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using a broadband communication device.

71. (canceled).

72. (canceled).

73. (original) The computer program of claim 60 wherein the installation code segment causes the computer to install a list of programs needed to install the connectivity component.

74. (original) The computer program of claim 73 wherein the list of programs includes a sequential list of programs needed to install the connectivity component such that only one

reboot of the client device is necessary to accomplish installation using the sequential list of programs.

75-78. (canceled).

79. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 60 wherein the receiving code segment, the detection code segment, and the installation code segment cause the computer to perform automatically without user intervention to receive, detect, and install the connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using the new hardware device.

80. (original) The computer program of claim 60 wherein the connectivity component received includes an updated version of a connectivity component stored on the client device before the connectivity component is installed by the installation code segment.

81. (original) The computer program of claim 80 wherein the detection code segment causes the computer to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device by comparing a version of the updated connectivity component received with a version of the connectivity component stored on the client device.

82. (original) The computer program of claim 60 wherein:
the receiving code segment causes the computer to receive version information from a remote server associated with a connectivity component;
the detection code segment causes the computer to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device, and to determine a version of the connectivity component to install by comparing the version information received from the remote server with version information associated with the connectivity component already received by the receiving code segment when installation of the connectivity component is needed; and

the installation code segment causes the computer to install the connectivity component stored on the client device when the detection code segment determines the version information associated with the stored connectivity component is correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server.

83. (original) The computer program of claim 82 wherein:

the receiving code segment causes the computer to receive an updated connectivity component from the remote server when the detection code segment determines that the version information associated with the connectivity component stored on the client device is not correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server; and

the installation code segment causes the computer to install the updated connectivity component received from the remote server.

84. (canceled).

85. (canceled).

86. (original) The computer program of claim 60 wherein:

the receiving code segment includes a host system receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a request to send a connectivity component to a local client device; and

the installation code segment includes a host system installation code segment that causes the computer to send the connectivity component to the local client device for installation on the local client device in response to the request.

87. (original) The computer program of claim 86 wherein the host system detection code segment causes the computer to determine a version of the connectivity component to install on the local client device.

88. (previously presented) A system for installing computer software components on a client device for enabling connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices, comprising:

a receiving module that is structured and arranged to receive multiple connectivity components that enable connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices, wherein the receiving module is structured and arranged to copy the connectivity components to the client device from a compact disk and store the connectivity components in a dormant state on the client device;

a detection module that is structured and arranged to detect whether installation of at least one of the connectivity components is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using a selected hardware device; and

an installation module that is structured and arranged to install the connectivity component when the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device.

89. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing a device driver to enable communications between computer software at the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device associated with the device driver.

90. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing directly with the selected hardware device to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device.

91. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein the connectivity component includes computer software that interfaces with a driver for the selected hardware device that is used to connect to the host system.

92. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein the connectivity component includes a broadband connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using a broadband communication device.

93. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein:
the detection module is structured and arranged to detect whether the installation of the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system in response to an input received from a user of the client device requesting communications using the selected hardware device; and

the installation module is structured and arranged to install the connectivity component when the connectivity component is needed based on the input from the user of the client device.

94. (previously presented) The system of claim 93 wherein the input from the user of the client device includes a request to change connectivity to the host system from a low-bandwidth connection type to a broadband connection type.

95. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein the installation module installs a list of programs needed to install the connectivity component.

96. (previously presented) The system of claim 95 wherein the list of programs includes a sequential list of programs needed to install the connectivity component such that only one reboot of the client device is necessary to accomplish installation using the sequential list of programs.

97. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein the detection module further comprises an automatic hardware device detector that is structured and arranged to automatically detect a hardware device and determine the connectivity component needed to enable connectivity to the host system associated with the hardware device detected.

98. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein the receiving module, the detection module, and the installation module are structured and arranged to perform automatically without user intervention to receive, detect, and install the connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using the selected hardware device.

99. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein the connectivity component received includes an updated version of a connectivity component stored on the client device before the connectivity component is installed by the installation module.

100. (previously presented) The system of claim 99 wherein the detection module is structured and arranged to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device by comparing a version of the updated connectivity component received with a version of the connectivity component stored on the client device.

101. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein:
the receiving module is structured and arranged to receive version information from a remote server associated with a connectivity component;
the detection module is structured and arranged to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device, and to determine a version of the connectivity component to install by comparing the version information received from the remote server with version information associated with the connectivity component already received by the receiving module when installation of the connectivity component is needed; and
the installation module is structured and arranged to install the connectivity component stored on the client device when the detection module determines the version information associated with the stored connectivity component is correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server.

102. (previously presented) The system of claim 101 wherein:

the receiving module is structured and arranged to receive an updated connectivity component from the remote server when the detection module determines that the version information associated with the connectivity component stored on the client device is not correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server; and

the installation module is structured and arranged to install the updated connectivity component received from the remote server.

103. (previously presented) The system of claim 88 wherein:

the receiving module is structured and arranged to include a host system receiving module that is structured and arranged to receive a request to send a connectivity component to a local client device; and

the installation module is structured and arranged to include a host system installation module that is structured and arranged to send the connectivity component to the local client device for installation on the local client device in response to the request.

104. (previously presented) The system of claim 103 wherein the detection module is structured and arranged to include a host system detection module that is structured and arranged to determine a version of the connectivity component needed for installation on the local client device.

105. (previously presented) A method for installing computer software components on a client device for enabling connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices, the method comprising:

receiving multiple connectivity components that enable connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices, wherein receiving the connectivity components includes copying the connectivity components to the client device from a compact disk and storing the connectivity components in a dormant state on the client device;

detecting whether installation of at least one of the connectivity components is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using a selected hardware device; and

installing the connectivity component when connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device.

106. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing a device driver to enable communications between computer software at the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device associated with the device driver.

107. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing directly with the selected hardware device to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device.

108. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein the connectivity component includes computer software that interfaces with a driver for the selected hardware device that is used to connect to the host system.

109. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein the connectivity component includes a broadband connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using a broadband communication device.

110. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein:
detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is necessary includes detecting whether the installation of the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system in response to an input received from a user of the client device requesting communications using the selected hardware device; and

installing the connectivity component includes installing the connectivity component when the connectivity component is needed based on the input from the user of the client device.

111. (previously presented) The method as in claim 110 wherein the input from the user of the client device includes a request to change connectivity to the host system from a low-bandwidth connection type to a broadband connection type.

112. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein installing the connectivity component includes installing a list of programs needed to install the connectivity component.

113. (previously presented) The method as in claim 112 wherein the list of programs includes a sequential list of programs needed to install the connectivity component such that only one reboot of the client device is necessary to accomplish installation using the sequential list of programs.

114. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is necessary further comprises automatically detecting a hardware device and determining the connectivity component needed to enable connectivity to the host system associated with the hardware device detected.

115. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein receiving the connectivity component, detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is necessary, and installing the connectivity component includes automatically without user intervention receiving, detecting, and installing the connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using the selected hardware device.

116. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein:

receiving the connectivity component includes receiving version information from a remote server associated with a connectivity component;

detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is needed includes detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device, and determining a version of the connectivity component to install by comparing the version information received from the remote server with version information associated with the connectivity component already received when installation of the connectivity component is needed; and

installing the connectivity component includes installing the connectivity component stored on the client device when the version information associated with the stored connectivity component is determined to be correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server.

117. (previously presented) The method as in claim 116 wherein:

receiving the connectivity component includes receiving an updated connectivity component from the remote server when the version information associated with the connectivity component stored on the client device is determined not to be correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server; and

installing the connectivity component includes installing the updated connectivity component received from the remote server.

118. (previously presented) The method as in claim 105 wherein:

receiving the connectivity component includes using a host system to receive a request to send a connectivity component to a local client device; and

installing the connectivity component includes using the host system to send the connectivity component to the local client device for installation on the local client device in response to the request.

119. (previously presented) The method as in claim 118 wherein detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is necessary includes using the host system to determine a version of the connectivity component to install on the local client device.

120. (previously presented) A computer program for installing computer software components on a client device for enabling connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices, the computer program being stored on a computer readable medium or a propagated signal and comprising:

a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive multiple connectivity components that enable connectivity to a host system by at least one of several different hardware devices, wherein the receiving code segment causes the computer to copy at least one of the connectivity components to the client device from a compact disk and store the connectivity component in a dormant state on the client device;

a detection code segment that causes the computer to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using a selected hardware device; and

an installation code segment that causes the computer to install the connectivity component when the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device.

121. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing a device driver to enable communications between computer software at the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device associated with the device driver.

122. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein the connectivity component is capable of interfacing directly with the selected hardware device to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the selected hardware device.

123. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein the connectivity component includes computer software that interfaces with a driver for the selected hardware device that is used to connect to the host system.

124. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein the connectivity component includes a broadband connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using a broadband communication device.

125. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein:
the detection code segment causes the computer to detect whether the installation of the connectivity component is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system in response to an input received from a user of the client device requesting communications using the selected hardware device; and

the installation code segment causes the computer to install the connectivity component when the connectivity component is needed based on the input from the user of the client device.

126. (currently amended) The computer program of claim ~~[[120]]~~ 125 wherein the input from the user of the client device includes a request to change connectivity to the host system from a low-bandwidth connection type to a broadband connection type.

127. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein the installation code segment causes the computer to install a list of programs needed to install the connectivity component.

128. (currently amended) The computer program of claim ~~[[120]]~~ 127 wherein the list of programs includes a sequential list of programs needed to install the connectivity component such that only one reboot of the client device is necessary to accomplish installation using the sequential list of programs.

129. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein the detection code segment further comprises an automatic hardware device detector code segment that causes the computer to automatically detect a hardware device and determine the connectivity component needed to enable connectivity to the host system associated with the hardware device detected.

130. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein the receiving code segment, the detection code segment, and the installation code segment cause the computer to perform automatically without user intervention to receive, detect, and install the connectivity component to enable connectivity to the host system using the selected hardware device.

131. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein the connectivity component received includes an updated version of a connectivity component stored on the client device before the connectivity component is installed by the installation code segment.

132. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 131 wherein the detection code segment causes the computer to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device by comparing a version of the updated connectivity component received with a version of the connectivity component stored on the client device.

133. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein:

the receiving code segment causes the computer to receive version information from a remote server associated with a connectivity component;

the detection code segment causes the computer to detect whether installation of the connectivity component is needed on the client device, and to determine a version of the connectivity component to install by comparing the version information received from the remote server with version information associated with the connectivity component already received by the receiving code segment when installation of the connectivity component is needed; and

the installation code segment causes the computer to install the connectivity component stored on the client device when the detection code segment determines the version information associated with the stored connectivity component is correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server.

134. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 133 wherein:

the receiving code segment causes the computer to receive an updated connectivity component from the remote server when the detection code segment determines that the version information associated with the connectivity component stored on the client device is not correct when compared against the version information received from the remote server; and

the installation code segment causes the computer to install the updated connectivity component received from the remote server.

135. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 120 wherein:

the receiving code segment includes a host system receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a request to send a connectivity component to a local client device; and

the installation code segment includes a host system installation code segment that causes the computer to send the connectivity component to the local client device for installation on the local client device in response to the request.

136. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 135 wherein the host system detection code segment causes the computer to determine a version of the connectivity component to install on the local client device.

137. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the detection module is structured and arranged to detect a prior receipt of the connectivity component that is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device.

138. (previously presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein detecting whether installation of the connectivity component is necessary includes detecting a prior receipt of the connectivity component that is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device.

139. (previously presented) The computer program of claim 60 wherein the detection code segment causes the computer to detect a prior receipt of the connectivity component that is needed to enable connectivity between the client device and the host system using the new hardware device.